

2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal
lagoons & harbours



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IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



This document has been prepared for Forest & Bird by Chris Gaskin, IBA Project Coordinator (NZ).

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Contributors

The following individuals have contributed to the profiles in this document in a variety of ways, including supply of data and information about seabirds, and reviewing draft material, site profiles, species lists and site maps.

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Front cover: Rachel McLellan (Black-billed Gulls), Craig McKenzie (Black-fronted Tern)

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ064	Rangitata River	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.973941°S, 171.301712°E (Arundel bridge)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii
Area	18,975 ha
Altitude	0 - 900m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

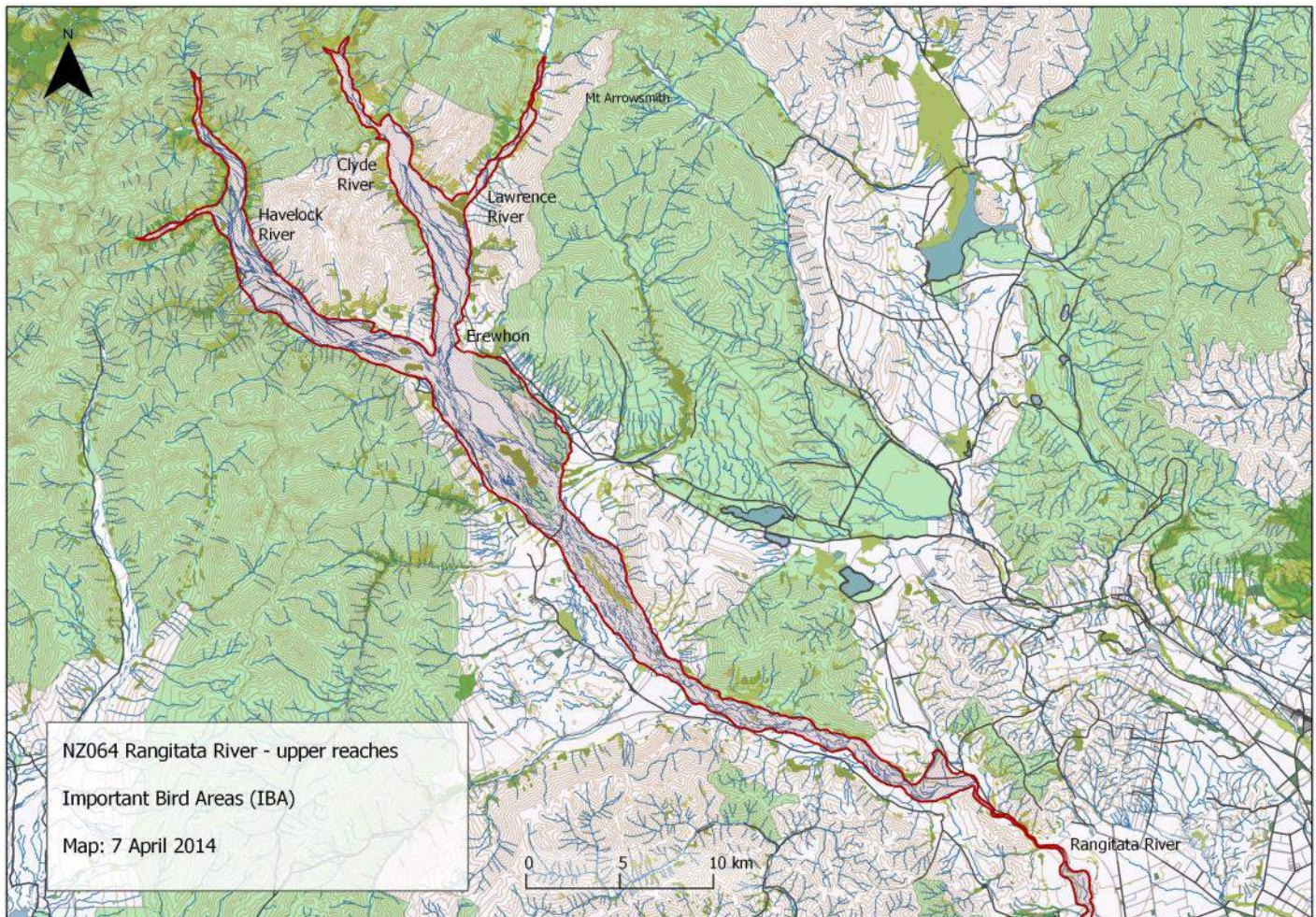
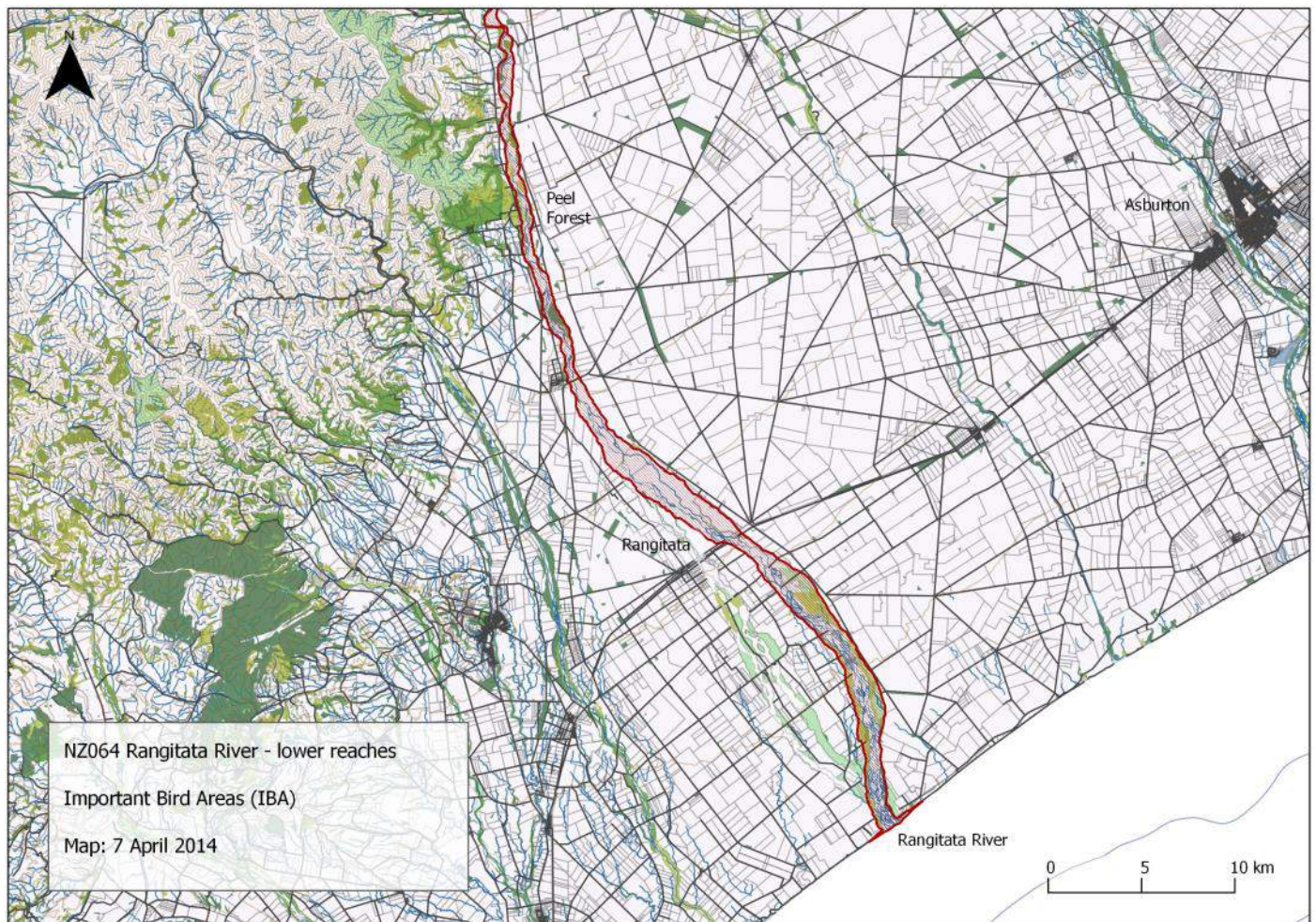
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1970-2014	985-3,012	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1982-2010	218-524	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding	2006-2010	67-254	A1, A4i	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Australasian Harrier, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, White-fronted Tern, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, Silvereye, Skylark, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: Spotted Shag.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Rangitata River	Conservation Reserve	Protected area overlaps with site
Rangitata River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Rangitata Riverbed	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Tenehaun	Scenic Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Upper Rangitata Riverbed	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA borders and includes sections of Mt Peel/Waikari Hills Conservation Area, Hakatere Conservation Park, Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park and Rangitata/Rakaia Head Waters Conservation Area.

The Upper Rangitata River is included in DOC's O Te Wharakai Wetland Management Project. The Rangitata River is also protected by a Water Conservation Order (2006).



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Shingle Shoreline	Minor
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Rivermouth (Estuary and Spit)	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); Small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper reaches)	Major
Shrubland	Kanuka, matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), bracken	Major

Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases	Invasive alien species - mustelids, cats, rats, hedgehogs	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by lake and beach users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal); Persecution	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Water management/use - abstraction of surface & ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Natural system modifications	Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Floods	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie